

CONGRATULATING LOVIE SMITH AND TONY DUNGY ON BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN HEAD COACHES OF NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAMS TO QUALIFY FOR THE SUPER BOWL

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the historic meeting of two wonderfully talented African-American coaches, Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts. These two men have made history by leading their teams to Super Bowl XLI. February 4, 2007 will remain a significant day in the pantheon of sports history, as well as American history. Prior to this date, there was never an African-American coach at the helm of a team that qualified for the big game. It is important for us to recognize the historic nature of this meeting—the meeting of two extremely successful coaches and two very talented teams—because the victories celebrated on this date extend far beyond the length of the football field and speaks to significant changes from a time when Black players and coaches were not allowed to join White sports leagues. The leadership of African-American coaches who pride themselves on their Christian ideals and coach using positive reinforcement demonstrate the resilience, perseverance and desire to partake in all aspects of the American dream of people of African descent. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution to H. Res. 90, congratulating Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts on becoming the first African-American head coaches of National Football League teams to qualify for the Super Bowl.

We should pause to commemorate this historic event, but it is important that we remain critical while celebrating. Though there have been significant improvements in racial inequities in the NFL, there is still much work to be done. Frederick Douglass “Fritz” Pollard became the first African-American head coach of an NFL team in 1921 with the Akron Pros. It would be another 70 years before another head coach joined the ranks. Throughout the 1980s, there was not a single African-American head coach in the NFL, in fact all head coaches were Caucasian. In 1989, Art Shell joined the Oakland Raiders as head coach. He would be joined by two more Black coaches in the years that followed while the number of African-American assistant coaches continued to grow. The stark contrast between the number of Black coaches, always very few in numbers, and the number of Black players has sometimes drawn critical attention from those outside of the Black community; however, it was extremely difficult to avoid discussing these discrepancies in the coming weeks. I hope that as we move forward and continue to remember the first meeting of two great African-American men and continue to push for true equality, throughout the ranks, in the NFL and in other professional leagues.

Football, in America, has always been more than just a game. It is the American game, deeply entrenched in the fabric of our society and a symbol of our culture as Americans.

Travel to any city or town throughout the Nation and you will see people of all races, ethnicities, religions, socio-economic classes and social backgrounds discussing, celebrating and playing football, sharing in the losses and successes of their favorite teams. While tremendous progress has been made, especially in the area of racial equity, there is still work to be done in extending equality to all Americans.

RECOGNIZING TYLER COVERDELL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Coverdell, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the years Tyler has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tyler Coverdell for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONCERNING VENEZUELA'S PASSAGE OF THE ENABLING LAW

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a gathering storm in our own backyard.

Last week, Venezuela's self-proclaimed Communist President Hugo Chavez was granted free rein to accelerate changes in all areas of society by presidential decree.

This action, granted to him by the National Assembly, which is completely under his control, is putting Venezuela on a rapid path toward dictatorship.

Venezuelan lawmakers unanimously gave President Chavez sweeping powers to legislate by decree and impose his radical vision of a socialist state in the mold of Castro's Cuba.

The new law gives Chavez more power than he has ever had in 8 years as president.

And, based upon his own words and statements, he plans to use this power to nationalize many privately held companies, snuff out political dissent, and remove term limits, thereby allowing him to serve indefinitely as president.

Madam Speaker, some of my colleagues on both the left and the right argue that Chavez was democratically elected and that he and his quest for his Bolivarian Revolution are no threat to the Western Hemisphere.

For example, last week in response to the new law, Assistant Secretary of State for the

Western Hemisphere Tom Shannon said, and I quote from an interview with the Associated Press, “the enabling law isn't anything new in Venezuela. It's something valid under the constitution. As with any tool of democracy, it depends how it is used. At the end of the day, it's not a question for the United States or for other countries, but for Venezuela.”

But I vehemently disagree with this statement and the hands-off-approach-to-Chavez sentiment. The mere holding of elections is not enough.

Venezuela with Chavez at the helm is on a glidepath towards a dictatorship disguised as a democracy.

Madam Speaker, we should all be concerned about the direction President Chavez is taking his country. Any leader who tries to tighten his grip on power by destroying the institutions of democracy, curtailing press freedom, and using his office to intimidate pro-democracy opponents is setting in motion a dangerous process with potentially ominous consequences.

During almost every speech Chavez gives, he says it is “socialism or death.” Madam Speaker, it is time to realize Chavez must be taken seriously. We must refocus our efforts in Latin America and defeat this gathering storm.

INTRODUCTION OF FOUR NATIVE AMERICAN BILLS

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 8, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am today reintroducing four bills that would make various changes in current laws regarding Native Americans. Each of these bills is identical to one that I introduced last year, and each is identical to a bill passed by the Senate in 2005 or 2006 on which action was not completed before the end of the 109th Congress. I am reintroducing them today so that their consideration can resume without further unnecessary delay.

One bill corresponds to S. 1231 as passed by the Senate on December 14, 2005. Entitled the “National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education Amendments Act,” it would amend the Act to provide four key improvements intended to assist the Fund in achieving self-sufficiency. First, it would provide initial seed money to the Fund for three fiscal years to facilitate operations. In addition, it would authorize the Secretary to provide funding for operational costs of the Fund on a reimbursement basis. It also would authorize the Board to appoint the Chief Operating Officer rather than mandating the Secretary of the Board serve as the Chief Operating Officer. And it would increase the administrative cost cap of ten percent currently in place to 20 percent for one year, 15 percent the following year and then decreasing back to 10 percent.

Another bill corresponds to S. 1758, as passed by the Senate on September 26, 2005. It would amend the Indian Financing Act of 1974 with respect to loan guaranty and insurance to: (1) authorize the Secretary of the Interior to guarantee or insure loans to both for-profit and nonprofit borrowers; and (2) allow all or any portion of a guaranteed or insured loan, including its security, to be transferred by the lender by sale or assignment to

any person, and be retransferred by the transferee. It also would allow a fiscal transfer agent to be compensated through any of the fees assessed and any interest earned on any funds or fees the agent has collected while the funds or fees are in the agent's control and before the time at which the agent is contractually required to transfer such funds to the Secretary or to transferees or other holders. And it would make loans made by an eligible Community Development Finance Institution eligible for guaranty or insurance and increase from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion the amount of loans the Bureau of Indian Affairs can have outstanding.

Another bill corresponds to S. 1480, passed by the Senate on July 26, 2006. It provides that any actual rental proceeds certified by the Secretary of the Interior from the lease of land acquired with a FHA Direct Loan by an Indian tribe or Tribal Corporation shall be deemed to: (1) constitute the rental value of that land; and (2) satisfy the requirement for appraisal of that land.

And another bill corresponds to S. 1483, also passed by the Senate last July 26th. It would amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 with respect to grants to tribally controlled postsecondary vocational and technical institutions that are not receiving federal support under the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 or the Navajo Community College Act to provide basic support for the education and training of Indian students. It also would revise the definition of "Indian student count" (essential to the formula for the determination of grant amounts). And it would require the Indian student count to be determined according to a specified formula, for each academic year, on the basis of the enrollments of Indian students as in effect at the conclusion of the third week of the fall term and the third week of the spring term, allowing the counting of students without secondary school degrees under certain circumstances.

I urge the leadership of the committees to which these bills will be referred to consider them as soon as practicable.

#### CONGRATULATING MRS. SHIRLEY SISCO VAUGHN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

##### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mrs. Shirley Sisco Vaughn on the occasion of her retirement from teaching after serving the people of Mobile County and Alabama's First District for 44 years.

During her distinguished teaching career in Mobile, Mrs. Vaughn served as a teacher for Mobile County Public Schools, Mobile Christian School, and Faulkner University. She also taught in the National Guard's extended education program. Many years of her personal sacrifice and dedication have benefited our community and our service members in the military.

Mrs. Vaughn has also been a devoted mother to her two sons, John and Robert Bogle. Mrs. Vaughn has humbly guided thou-

sands of lives throughout her career, and it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize her service.

Madam Speaker, there are few individuals more important to the development of our young men and women in this country than those who commit themselves to educating children. Mrs. Shirley Vaughn is an outstanding example of the quality individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of education, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating a dedicated teacher and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know Mrs. Vaughn's colleagues, her family, and her many friends and former students join with me in praising her accomplishments and extending thanks for her many efforts over the past four decades on behalf of Mobile County and the First Congressional District.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE TANNING ACCOUNTABILITY AND NOTIFICATION ACT—THE TAN ACT

##### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation along with my friend and colleague from Florida, Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, the Tanning Accountability and Notification Act. This bill would require the Food and Drug Administration to determine whether the current labeling of indoor tanning beds provides sufficient information to consumers about the risks associated with indoor tanning beds. It doesn't tell the FDA what the label should say, it merely tells the FDA to examine the label and figure out how to make it as effective as possible. The current tanning bed warning label hasn't been updated since 1979. It is over 104 words long and it buries the mention of skin cancer deep in the label, and it is often placed where nobody can see it.

The statistics on skin cancer are sobering. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, 70 percent of tanning bed users are women between the ages of 16 and 49. The American Cancer Society estimates that this year more than 1 million people are expected to be diagnosed with skin cancers, which is associated with exposure to ultra-violet light. In 2007, a person's chances of getting invasive melanoma was 1 in 63. In 2007, a person's chances of getting melanoma were 1 in 33. One American dies of melanoma every 65 minutes.

We need a clear, simple warning that reflects the science of the 21st century so we can help reduce the numbers of preventable melanomas.

#### RECOGNIZING MITCHELL KILPATRICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mitchell Kilpatrick, a very

special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Mitchell has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Mitchell has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Mitchell researched 42 years of football statistics for defense, offense and special teams to determine the record holders for Truman High School. He also raised \$1,300 to purchase a glass covered statistics case which now displays the record holders' names and their statistics at Truman High School.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mitchell Kilpatrick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

##### HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee and the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Christopher Martin, as he begins his next assignment with the U.S. Coast Guard. Lieutenant Commander Martin has proven himself to be a tremendous asset to the work of both of these subcommittees.

As he assisted subcommittee staff members, Chris brought a unique perspective to bear on many of the lively debates and sometimes convoluted issues we face as we craft appropriations bills, and in overseeing the agencies and programs in our jurisdiction. Throughout his service here, Chris's unqualified professionalism, perceptiveness, willingness to pitch in, and cool head have helped these subcommittees and the Congress move forward on a wide range of policy and budgetary issues. His assistance in planning for and coordinating a complicated trip to review all of the border and immigration issues on the southern border was of particular benefit to us.

Lieutenant Commander Martin has served these subcommittees, and the House well. Each of us on the Homeland Security and Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittees wish Chris all the best as he resumes his Coast Guard career, and expect to see great things there.

#### CHARITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, there are more than 40 million uninsured Americans today—